

NOTES

FROM DEAN CLARK

Feb. 22, 2016

Dear members of the Hajim School community:

Congratulations to **Doug Kelley**, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, who has **received a Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award** from the National Science Foundation to pursue his research on the fluid dynamics effects that are important in the performance of batteries that use liquid metals as electrodes. Such batteries hold a strong promise for energy storage applications on an electrical grid with intermittent energy sources, such as one based on renewable energy sources. The CAREER program offers **NSF's most prestigious awards in support of junior faculty** who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations. Great work, Doug! You can read more about his award [here](#).

This is the third CAREER award received by a Hajim School faculty member in the past year. **Danielle Benoit** of Biomedical Engineering received hers almost exactly a year ago, followed by **Nick Vamivakas** of Optics last month. Clearly we have some very talented young researchers in our midst!

Rob LaVaque, an Instructor in our popular Audio and Music Engineering program, displayed his award-winning talents as a musician and audio engineer when he **did the audio and music for those well-received University of Rochester Medical Center television ads** -- You Are My Sunshine, and 3,000 Researchers -- that **debuted during this year's Super Bowl**. Click [here](#) to read a Q and A with Rob on what was involved in making these ads. And **drop by CSB 523 at 6:30 p.m. this Wednesday, Feb. 24**, to hear an **open forum lecture by Stacey Hersh**, a composer whose songs and musical scores **have been featured in several hundred TV shows, and over 40 TV movies and feature films**. This is the first in a series of guest lectures this semester that Rob has set up in conjunction with his AME 194 class on Audio for Visual Media.

We have some very talented, motivated students as well. Four of them -- **Eva Hansen '18** of Biomedical Engineering, **Vivian Li '18** of Computer Science and Economics, **Luke Dengler '18** of Chemical Engineering, and **Bennett Nidenberg '16** of Biomedical Engineering -- **were in Don Juan, Dominican Republic during the winter break as members of our Engineers Without Borders chapter**, conducting water tests and a site assessment at a school that has two wells, but has to purchase drinking water. Their findings will help EWB **design a water treatment system for the school so it can draw its drinking water on site**. You can read more about their trip [here](#). Stay tuned for more information later this semester when the EWB chapter plans a USeed appeal for donations to support this worthwhile project.

Speaking of worthwhile projects, two of our Mechanical Engineering students -- **Loudon Blake '17** and **Ben Martell '19** -- are **creating replacement hammers for the University's practice carillon** as part of their work in EAS 141, the introductory course on basic machine tools taught by Senior Laboratory Engineer **Jim Alkins** in the Fabrication Shop at Rettner Hall. This is a great way for these students to not only learn how to use lathes and other shop tools, but to work with a "customer" -- in this case the Music Department. And all for good cause. Replacement parts for the custom-made practice carillon are not available commercially. Read more [here](#).

Congratulations to **Larry Kuntz**, a laboratory engineer in Chemical Engineering, who was honored recently by the department to **celebrate his 50 years with the University**. Larry is a great example of the **highly skilled but often unheralded staff members who maintain safe, efficient laboratories** where research can occur, and where students can translate classroom knowledge into hands-on experiments and projects. You can read more about the contributions of ChemE's "go-to guy" in this [story](#).

Our Society of Women Engineers chapter is hosting a **panel discussion on study abroad opportunities** for engineering students, from **7 to 8 p.m., tomorrow, Feb. 23 in Dewey 1-101**. The panel will include Hajim School female students who have studied in such countries as New Zealand, China and South Africa. All engineering students interested in studying abroad are encouraged to attend. Contact mmay8@u.rochester.edu for more information.

As always, keep me updated, and have a great week.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Clark
Professor and Dean



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